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Letter dated 10 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you the concerns of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda regarding the continued illegal supply of arms and ammunition to militia groups in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In this regard, I would like to refer you to the crash last week at Kamina of a cargo aircraft, which delivered arms and ammunition to both Congolese and foreign armed groups, including the ex-FAR/Interahamwe militia responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, in the Minembwe region of South Kivu in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. When the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was seized of the matter, Congolese authorities prevented it from carrying out an investigation.

It has come to our attention that a colonel of the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC), together with two officers of the genocidal ex-FAR forces, were among those on board this aircraft.

The Government of Rwanda has on several occasions complained about the continued supply of weapons and ammunition to the ex-FAR and Interahamwe in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The supply of arms, ammunition and other assistance to these genocidal militias is not only a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions 1291 (2000), 1304 (2000), 1316 (2000), 1332 (2000), 1335 (2001), 1341 (2001), 1417 (2002), 1445 (2002) and 1493 (2003), but it is also a contravention of the letter and spirit of the Principles of Good-Neighbourly Relations and Cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, agreed in New York in September. It should also be noted that these acts violate the Lusaka and Pretoria Agreements.

This confirmed delivery of weapons and ammunition to ex-FAR and Interahamwe at a time when the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is labouring hard to put an end to the Third Party Verification Mechanism of the Pretoria Agreement between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to the Joint Military Commission and the Political Committee of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement is cause for concern for the Government, because these mechanisms were meant to monitor the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of the forces.

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It is also regrettable that this delivery of weapons occurred less than one month after the good will mission of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda to Kinshasa.

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda also regrets that MONUC was prevented by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from carrying out immediate inspection and verification at Kamina. It is an outrage that a United Nations observer mission, with a Chapter VII mandate, can be so wantonly frustrated and prevented from executing its mandated responsibilities.

While drawing the attention of the Security Council to the continued threat that the delivery of weapons and ammunition to the Rwandan genocidal forces represents for our country and the region, the Government of the Republic of Rwanda wishes to reiterate its unwavering determination and commitment to work for peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes region. We appeal once more to the Security Council to take the necessary steps to ensure that these genocidal forces are completely neutralized.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative